

Message Text

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ORIGIN EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 FEA-01 ERDA-05 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00

CIEP-01 COME-00 DODE-00 EB-07 FPC-01 H-02 INR-07

INT-05 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 OMB-01 PM-04 USIA-06

SAM-01 OES-06 SP-02 SS-15 STR-04 TRSE-00 ACDA-07 /102 R

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S/S: MR. ORTIZ

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P 162318Z AUG 76

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 203773

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ENRG, UR, US, EEWT

SUBJECT: LNG IMPORT POLICY

REF. STATE 199053

1. THE FOLLOWING GUIDANCE MAY BE HELPFUL TO THE EMBASSY IN DEALING WITH QUERIES FROM SOVIET OFFICIALS ABOUT NEW LNG POLICY. EMPASSY SHOULD NOT SEEK OUT SOVIETS TO EXPLAIN POLICY, BUT MAY DRAW ON GUIDANCE IF QUESTIONED. WE WOULD APPRECIATE REPORT OF ANY QUERIES RECEIVED FROM SOVIETS.

2. AS STATED REFTTEL, PARA 4, THE NEW LNG POLICY IS NON-DISCRIMINATORY AND THERE IS NOTHING IN IT THAT AUTOMATI-
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CALLY EXCLUDES SOVIET PROJECTS FROM CONSIDERATION BY THE

FEDERAL POWER COMMISSION. RAISING THE ANNUAL IMPORT TARGET FROM 1 TCF TO 2 TCF PROVIDES MORE FLEXIBILITY IN DEALING WITH LNG IMPORT PROPOSALS, RECOGNIZING THAT TOTAL IMPORT VOLUME OF POTENTIAL PROJECTS IS WELL ABOVE 2 TCF.

3. SOVIET PROJECTS WILL BE CONSIDERED ON THE BASIS OF THEIR MERITS WHICH CANNOT BE DETERMINED UNTIL DETAILED PROPOSALS ARE SUBMITTED TO THE FPC.

4. FOR EMBASSY'S BACKGROUND ONLY, THE DEPARTMENT'S LATEST INFORMATION ON THE STATUS OF NORTH STAR IS THAT CONSORTIUM IS WAITING TO HEAR FROM SOVIETS THAT THEY ARE READY TO CONTINUE NEGOTIATIONS. THE CONSORTIUM'S UNDERSTANDING IS THAT MOSCOW IS AWAITING OUTCOME OF GENERAL ERC LNG REVIEW BEFORE PROCEEDING FURTHER WITH NEGOTIATIONS. WOULD APPRECIATE EMBASSY REPORTING ANY INDICATION SOVIETS ARE READY TO RESUME OR TERMINATE NEGOTIATIONS. EMBASSY SHOULD TAKE EVERY PRECAUTION NOT TO REPEAT NOT TO GIVE SOVIETS THE IMPRESSION THAT WE ARE SIGNALLING THEM THAT SHOULD NOW MOVE AHEAD WITH A PROPOSAL. KISSINGER

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